

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a pathology affecting tissues of an eye selected from the group consisting of: sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, optic nerve, vitreous body, and choroidea, comprising:

- (1) identifying a subject in need of treatment of the pathology,
- (2) topically applying a composition comprising from [[10]] 200 to 500 µg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ocular surface of the subject, and contacting the tissues with the nerve growth factor to treat the pathology,

wherein the pathology is selected from the group consisting of: cataract, optic neuritis, glaucoma, maculopathy, retinitis pigmentosa, myopic retinopathy, macular foramen, uveitis, vitrectomy, ocular hypotonia, scleromalacia, perforating trauma of the sclera, and phthisis.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200-250 µg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

Claim 21-32. (Canceled)

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 13, wherein the pathology is a pathology affecting the optic nerve.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[25]] 13, wherein the pathology is a pathology affecting the retina.

Claim 35-36. (Canceled)